Air India entering Guinness Book of World Record

1110. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is entering into the Guinness Book of world record for evaquating a record number of Indians from Amman durinng the Gulf War; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guinness have recognised Air India's performance of airlifting over one lakh stranded Indian nationals from Amman during the period August—October, 1990 as a record to be icluded in the 1993 edition of the Guinness Book of Records.

Losses incurred by Indian Airlines

1111. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines incurred losses of Rs. 21 crores in the year 1991-92 and the anticipated loss for the year 1992-93 is more than Rs. 75 crores;

(b) what are the main reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the fare to minimise losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The net loss suffered by Indian Airlines for 1991-92 is estimated at Rs. 211.55 crores and the budgeted loss for 1992-93 is Rs. 72.50 crores.

(b) Losses suffered by Indian Airlines have mainly been on account of—

(i) Downward adjustment of Indian Rupee vis-a-vis major international currencies in July, 1991 and consequent increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel prices.

(ii) Absorption of heavy incidence of fixed expenses associated with A-320 fleet due to its reinduction in a phased manner.

(iii) Increase in insurance premium rates and landing and route navigation charges.

(iv) Additional burden on account of purchase of foreign exchange at market rates consequent to changes introduced in the Finance Act, 1992.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Agitation by Air Traffic controllers

1112. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR LA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Traffic Controllers resorted to work-to-rule at all the airports in the country in April/May, 1992;

(b) if so, the period for which they continued their agitation;

(c) what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the loss incurred by Government as a result thereof; and

(e) what is the agreement arrived at with the Air Traffic Controllers in resolving the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Air Traffic Controllers observed work-to-rule from 1st May, 1992 to 15th May, 1992 seeking better career prospects.

(d) It is difficult to assess the total loss. The loss sustained by Indian Airlines alone has been estimated at Rs. 360 Lakhs.

(e) The demands of the Air Traffic Controllers were examined by the Empowered Committee set up by the National Airports Authority. The Committee has agreed to provide additional promotion prospects for the employees in different grades.

Global tender for Westland Helicopters

1113. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had invited global tenders some time back to dispose of the fleet of Westland helicopters;

(b) if so, what response has been received thereto;

(c) what is the decision, if any taken by Government with regard to the acceptance of the tenders; and

(d) what is the estimated loss likely to be suffered with the disposal of the said fleet?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Since the purchase of Westland helicopters was financed through a Grant from the Government of U.K., clearance of that Government is required for disposal of these helicopters under the terms of the Grant. Negotiations for disposal of Westland helicopters are on with the overnment of U.K.

Restoration of daily Indian Airlines flight on Nagpur-Delhi-Nagpur route

1114. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that daily flight of Indian Airlines on Nagpur-Delhi-Nagpur route has been discontinued in spite of heavy traffic on this route;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Frequency of Indian Airlines service on Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur and return route has been reduced from daily to four times a week w.e.f. 11.1.1992 due to capacity constraints and insufficient traffic demand.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reasons, Indian Airlines has no plan at present to restore this service on daily basis.

Shifting of Head Quarter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

1115. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to shift from Noida the Head Quarters of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management to Gwalior;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the fate of the 5 acres of land in Noida purchased earlier by Government at concessional rates from the Uttar Pradesh Government for the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) is at present housed in a set of flats totalling an area of about 4000 sq. ft. at New